



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Omaha District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application No: 2004-10213

Applicant: Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)

Waterway: Unnamed Tributaries to the Elkhorn River

Issue Date: September 9, 2004

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

21 DAY NOTICE

Reply To:

NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE – WEHRSPANN

8901 SOUTH 154TH STREET, SUITE 1, OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68138-3621

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE: This public notice is issued jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), P.O. Box 98922, State House Station, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509. NDEQ will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. NDEQ hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference thereto. For the purposes of NDEQ, this public notice will expire 30 days from the issue date shown above.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

APPLICANT: Nebraska Department of Roads, Attn: Jason Jurgens, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4759.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located on new and existing Highway 275 alignment in Sections 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, Township 19 North, Range 7 East, and Sections 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, Township 19 North, Range 8 East, Dodge County, Nebraska. The project begins approximately four miles northwest of Hooper on the existing Highway 275 alignment and extends approximately three miles east. At that point the project will be constructed on new alignment and will bypass Hooper to the west and south. The project will end at the new US 275/US 77 junction located approximately one mile south of the existing US 275/ US 77 junction.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant, under NDOR Project Hooper East and West, Project No. F-275-6(1027), proposes to the construction of a 4-lane divided highway as part of the expressway system connecting Norfolk and Fremont. The project will include a new interchange to link US 275 to US 77. County road intersections will be realigned to match the new highway alignment. Grading for roadway embankment and construction of drainage structures will impact jurisdictional wetlands and defined channel areas.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to provide a safe and efficient roadway for the public.

SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES: On April 6, and July 7, 2004 NDOR biologists visited the project site to determine if jurisdictional waters of the US, including wetlands, were present on the project. Approximately 8.78 acres of PEMA wetlands, 8.88 acres of PEMC wetlands, 1.29 acres of PSSA wetlands, and 0.38 acres of PFOA1 wetlands will be impacted by this project. NDOR proposes to mitigate 4.05 acres of PEMC wetlands on site where the new project alignment leaves the existing US 275 alignment in Section 13, Township 19N, Range 7 East. The existing roadway embankment and abandoned railroad embankment will be removed to create a 6.08-acre PEMC wetland mitigation site. NDOR proposes to mitigate the remaining wetland impacts at the West Point Mitigation Bank located in Section 35, Township 12 North, Range 6 East, Cuming County, Nebraska. This bank has not been certified. However, thirty acres of wetland pre-credits are available.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

FLOODPLAIN: This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. By this notice, comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the described work will adversely impact the floodplain.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as an application to the state in which the discharge site is located for certification of the discharge. The discharge must be certified before a Department of the Army permit can be issued. Certification, if issued, expresses the state's opinion that the discharge will not violate applicable water quality standards.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The decision whether to issue the Corps' permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed/completed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against their reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic

properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and Local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed/completed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to the Nebraska Regulatory Office – Wehrspann, 8901 South 154th Street, Suite 1, Omaha, NE 68138-3621. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic system's functional values, cumulative and secondary effects and endangered species. All comments received will be considered public information; copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commentors, may be provided to the applicant unless confidentiality is requested. Comments must be submitted on or before the expiration date (located at the top of the first page) of this notice to be considered in the subsequent actions on this application.

PUBLIC HEARING: Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information about this application may be obtained by writing to John Moeschen at the address shown on page one or by calling him at (402) 896-0896. You can also e-mail him at John.L.Moeschen@usace.army.mil.

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page one.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising.